

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A container, comprising:
a container body configured to hold toner; and
a mouthpiece configured to deliver toner from the container body, the mouthpiece
including,
a circular outlet, and
engagement openings located at positions opposed to each other around the
circular outlet, wherein, the circular outlet is positioned at a center location between
the engagement openings, and the engagement openings are configured to engage
with guide members provided at a setting portion on which the container is to be
mounted, and the engagement openings are configured to indicate a type of the toner
held by the container body.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The container according to Claim 29, wherein the
container body includes a container opening to which the mouthpiece is attachable.

Claim 31 (Canceled)

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The container according to Claim ~~31~~ 29, wherein the
engagement openings are positioned about the circular outlet according to the type of the
toner held by the container body.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): An image ~~formation~~-forming apparatus, comprising:
a main body including a plurality of setting portions; and
a plurality of containers each arranged to be mounted to a corresponding setting portion of the plurality of setting portions, each of the containers including,
a container body configured to hold toner of a color different from colors of toner stored in container bodies of others of the plurality of containers; and
a mouthpiece configured to deliver toner from the container body, the mouthpiece including,
a circular outlet, and
engagement openings located at positions opposed to each other around the circular outlet, wherein, for each container, the circular outlet is positioned at a center location between the positions of the engagement openings, the engagement openings are configured to engage with guide members provided at the setting portion on which the corresponding container is to be mounted, and a position of the container in the image forming apparatus is based on compatibility between the engagement openings of the mouthpiece and the guide members provided at the corresponding setting portion.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The container of claim 29, wherein the engagement openings include two apertures configured to receive two of the guide members.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The container of claim 34, wherein the two apertures each include at least one curved edge.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The container of claim 29, wherein a width of at least one of the engagement openings indicates a ~~the~~ type of the toner held by the container body.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): The container of claim 29, wherein the engagement openings include two openings positioned on opposite sides of a ~~center~~ central axis of the circular outlet.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The ~~container~~ image forming apparatus of claim 33, wherein the engagement openings include two apertures configured to receive two of the guide members.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The ~~container~~ image forming apparatus of claim 38, wherein the two apertures each include at least one curved edge.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The ~~container~~ image forming apparatus of claim 33, wherein a width of at least one of the engagement openings indicates a type of the toner held by the container body.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): The ~~container~~ image forming apparatus of claim 33, wherein the engagement openings include two openings positioned on opposite sides of a ~~center~~ central axis of the circular outlet.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The ~~container~~image forming apparatus of claim 33, wherein the container body includes a container opening to which the mouthpiece is attachable.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The ~~container~~image forming apparatus of claim 33, wherein the engagement openings are configured to indicate a type of the toner held by the container body.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The ~~container~~image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein the engagement openings are positioned about the circular outlet according to the type of the toner held by the container body.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): A toner container, comprising:
a container body configured to hold toner; and
a mouthpiece configured to deliver toner from the container body, the mouthpiece including,

a circular outlet, and

means for receiving guide protrusions provided at a setting portion on which the container is to be mounted, the means for receiving being located at positions opposed to each other around the circular outlet, ~~and~~ the circular outlet being positioned at a center location between the positions of the means for receiving, and
the means for receiving indicating a type of the toner held by the container body.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The toner container of claim 45, wherein the means for receiving is positioned on opposite sides of a center axis of the circular outlet.

Claim 47 (Canceled)

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): The container of claim ~~47~~45, wherein the means for receiving ~~are~~is positioned about the circular outlet according to the type of the toner held by the container body.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): A method for handling a toner container, the toner container including[[,]] a container body storing toner[[,]] and a mouthpiece configured to deliver the toner from the container body, the mouthpiece including a circular outlet and engagement openings located at positions opposed to each other around the circular outlet and the engagement openings being configured to indicate a type of the toner held by the container body, the method comprising:

mounting, based on a configuration of the engagement openings, the toner container at a setting portion of an image forming apparatus by inserting guide members provided at the setting portion into the engagement openings; and
transferring the toner from the container body through the circular outlet.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 49, wherein:
the engagement openings include two apertures, and
the mounting further comprises:
mounting the toner container at the setting portion by inserting the guide members into the two apertures.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 49, wherein:

the engagement openings include two curved apertures, and
the mounting further comprises:
mounting the toner container at the setting portion by inserting the guide members
into the two curved apertures.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 49, wherein:
a width of one of the engagement openings corresponds to a the type of the toner held
by the container body, and
the mounting further comprises:
mounting the toner container at the setting portion based on the width of one of the
engagement openings.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 49, wherein:
the engagement openings include two openings positioned on opposite sides of a
central axis of the circular outlet, and
the mounting further comprises:
mounting the toner container at the setting portion by inserting the guide members
into the two openings.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 49, wherein:
the mouthpiece is attached to a container opening of the container body.

Claim 55 (Cancelled).

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~55~~49, wherein:

the engagement openings are positioned about the circular outlet according to the type of the toner held by the container body, and

the mounting further comprises:

mounting the toner container at the setting portion based on a position of the engagement openings about the circular outlet.

Claim 57 (New): A toner container, comprising:

a container body configured to hold toner;

a toner outlet configured to deliver the toner from the container body; and

engagement openings located at positions opposed to each other around the toner outlet, wherein the toner outlet is positioned at a substantially central location between the engagement openings, the engagement openings are configured to engage with guide members provided at a setting portion on which the container is to be mounted, and the engagement openings are configured to indicate a toner type held by the container body.

Claim 58 (New): The container according to Claim 57, wherein the engagement openings are positioned about the toner outlet according to the toner type held by the container body.

Claim 59 (New): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a main body including a plurality of setting portions; and

a plurality of containers each configured to be mounted to a corresponding setting portion of the plurality of setting portions, each of the containers further comprising:

a container body configured to hold toner of a color different from colors of toner stored in the other containers of the plurality of containers;

a toner outlet configured to deliver toner from the container body; and engagement openings located at positions opposed to each other around the toner outlet, wherein, for each container, the toner outlet is positioned at a substantially central location between the positions of the engagement openings, the engagement openings are configured to engage with guide members provided at the setting portion on which the corresponding container is to be mounted, and a position of the container in the image forming apparatus is based on compatibility between the engagement openings and the guide members provided at the corresponding setting portion.

Claim 60 (New): The container of claim 57, wherein the engagement openings include two apertures configured to receive two of the guide members.

Claim 61 (New): The container of claim 60, wherein the two apertures each include at least one curved edge.

Claim 62 (New): The container of claim 57, wherein a width of at least one of the engagement openings indicates the toner type held by the container body.

Claim 63 (New): The container of claim 57, wherein the engagement openings include two openings positioned on opposite sides of a central axis of the toner outlet.

Claim 64 (New): The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein the engagement openings include two apertures configured to receive two of the guide members.

Claim 65 (New): The image forming apparatus of claim 64, wherein the two apertures each include at least one curved edge.

Claim 66 (New): The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein a width of at least one of the engagement openings indicates a toner type held by the container body.

Claim 67 (New): The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein the engagement openings include two openings positioned on opposite sides of a central axis of the toner outlet.

Claim 68 (New): The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein the engagement openings are configured to indicate a toner type held by the container body.

Claim 69 (New): The image forming apparatus of claim 68, wherein the engagement openings are positioned about the toner outlet according to the toner type held by the container body.

Claim 70 (New): A toner container, comprising:
a container body configured to hold toner;
a toner outlet configured to deliver toner from the container body; and
means for engaging the toner container with a setting portion on which the container is to be mounted according to a toner type held by the container body.

Claim 71 (New): The toner container of claim 70, wherein the means for engaging is positioned on opposite sides of a central axis of the toner outlet.

Claim 72 (New): The container of claim 70, wherein the means for engaging is positioned about the toner outlet according to the toner type held by the container body.

Claim 73 (New): A method for handling a toner container including a container body, an outlet to deliver a toner stored in the container body, and engagement openings located at positions opposed to each other around the outlet, the engagement openings being configured to indicate a toner type held by the container body, the method comprising:

mounting, based on a configuration of the engagement opening, the toner container at a setting portion of an image forming apparatus by inserting guide members provided at the setting portion into the engagement openings; and

transferring the toner from the container body through the outlet.

Claim 74 (New): The method of claim 73, wherein the engagement openings include two apertures, and the mounting further comprises mounting the toner container at the setting portion by inserting the guide members into the two apertures.

Claim 75 (New): The method of claim 73, wherein the engagement openings include two curved apertures, and the mounting further comprises mounting the toner container at the setting portion by inserting the guide members into the two curved apertures.

Claim 76 (New): The method of claim 73, wherein a width of one of the engagement openings corresponds to the type of the toner held by the container body, and the mounting further comprises mounting the toner container at the setting portion based on the width of one of the engagement openings.

Claim 77 (New): The method of claim 73, wherein the engagement openings include two openings positioned on opposite sides of a central axis of the outlet, and the mounting further comprises mounting the toner container at the setting portion by inserting the guide members into the two openings.

Claim 78 (New): The method of claim 73, wherein the engagement openings are positioned about the outlet according to the toner type held by the container body, and the mounting further comprises mounting the toner container at the setting portion based on a position of the engagement openings about the outlet.

Claim 79 (New): The container according to claim 29, further comprising:
the toner held in the container.

Claim 80 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising:
the toner held in the container.

Claim 81 (New): The toner container according to claim 45, further comprising:
the toner held in the container.

Claim 82 (New): The toner container according to claim 57, further comprising:
the toner held in the container, wherein the engagement openings indicate the type of toner held in the container.

Claim 83 (New): The toner container according to claim 57, further comprising:
a mouthpiece.

Claim 84 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 59, further
comprising:

the toner held in the container.

Claim 85 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 59, further
comprising:

a mouthpiece.

Claim 86 (New): The toner container according to claim 70, further comprising:
the toner held in the container.

Claim 87 (New): The toner container according to claim 70, further comprising:
a mouthpiece.

Claim 88 (New): The container according to claim 57, wherein cross sections of the engagement openings are arc-shaped and widths along a radial direction of the cross sections or azimuthal positions of the engagement openings about the toner outlet indicate the toner type held by the container.

Claim 89 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 59, wherein cross sections of the engagement openings are arc-shaped and widths along a radial direction of the

Application No. 10/830,101
Reply to Notice of Allowance dated May 11, 2005

cross sections or azimuthal positions of the engagement openings about the toner outlet
indicate the toner type help by the container.

Claim 90 (New): The toner container according to claim 70, wherein the means for
engaging comprises engagement openings having arc-shaped cross sections or widths along a
radial direction of the cross sections and azimuthal positions of the engagement openings
about the toner outlet indicate the toner type help by the container.